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What is claimed is:

1. A portable device comprising:
 - a housing having a first surface with an outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in a loudspeaker mode and a second surface with an outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode;
 - an electro-acoustic transducer located within the housing for converting an electrical signal input to the transducer into an acoustic signal, the transducer being operable to output acoustic signals when in the loudspeaker mode or the earpiece mode, the audio path between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the loudspeaker mode being less attenuated than the audio path between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode.

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2. A device according to ~~any preceding claim~~ ¹ wherein an attenuator is provided between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of the acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode.

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3. A device according to claim 1 or 2 further comprising an amplifier for amplifying the electrical signal prior to inputting to the transducer and a gain control for controlling the gain of the amplifier, the gain control being operable to increase the gain of the amplifier when the device is to operate in a loudspeaker mode relative to the gain of the amplifier when the device is in an earpiece mode.

- 25 4. A device according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~ including a first housing and a second housing coupled together in a moveable manner, the device further comprising a detector for detecting the position of one housing relative to the other and for operating the gain control switch accordingly.

- 30 5. A device according to ~~any preceding claim~~ ¹ wherein the difference in gain between the two modes is around 30 dB.

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6. A device according to any preceding claim wherein the device is a portable communications device.

7. A portable telecommunications device comprising:

5 a housing having a first surface with an outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in a hands-free mode and a second surface with an outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode;

10 an electro-acoustic transducer located within the housing for converting an electrical signal input to the transducer into an acoustic signal, the transducer being operable to output acoustic signals when in the hands-free mode or the earpiece mode, the audio path between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the hands-free mode being less attenuated than the audio path between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode.

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